

Vetting Alaska's Academic Standards: How They Address the Need for Developmental Education at the College Level

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Overview

- UA view of the standards
- Engagement in development of the standards
- Vetting the standards
- Expected impact of the new standards
 - Reduce the need for developmental study at UA
 - Improve freshman academic success

UA view of the Alaska Standards

- UA is supportive of the Alaska College and Career Ready Standards
 - UA submitted a formal letter of support for these standards to U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan in June 2012 as part of Alaska's application for a waiver from elements of No Child Left Behind
- UA demonstrates support through the following actions:
 - Educating teacher candidates to use the standards in designing and assessing instruction
 - Providing in-service opportunities for teachers
 - Aligning with UA's current work on revising baccalaureate general education requirements
 - Documenting alignment of the standards, instruction and assessment for Alaska's Learning Network courses
 - Alaska standards are used in the implementation of a dual credit course for K-12 students participating in Future Educators of Alaska

Comparison of Old and New Standards

Mathematics is a key college and career ready issue in Alaska.

The new high school standards include a greater emphasis on functions, trigonometry, data analysis and probability that will help make high school graduates more college and career ready. An emphasis is placed on students developing an ability to apply mathematics to novel situations and to identify and explain logical and/or flawed reasoning.

Improvements are evident in reading and writing but the changes from the previous standards are not as significant as in math.



UA Engagement in Development of the Alaska Standards

- Nineteen UA faculty and staff took part in the College & Career Ready Standards Revision meetings in 2010 and 2011 . Faculty from all three universities (including community campus faculty) in the fields of mathematics, English (composition and reading), education, chemistry, and early childhood development took part in these meetings.
- UAA's Center for Alaska Education Policy Research in partnership with the Educational Policy Improvement Center (Oregon) conducted a survey of faculty who teach entry-level courses in UA's 4-year and 2-year postsecondary programs.

Vetting of the Alaska Standards

- On Jan 4, 2012 EED distributed the draft new standards to those who had helped shape them.
- On Feb 17, 2012 a message was sent to all deans and department chairs at UAF notifying them that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development was seeking input about the new Alaska K-12 standards in math and English and provided a link to the EED website. They were asked to share this information with their faculty and to encourage them to share their perspectives.

Do the Alaska Standards Address the Need for Developmental Education and the K-12 to UA Gap?

- Currently 52% of recent Alaska high school graduates attending UA need some developmental coursework; 20% of Alaska Performance Scholars entering UA in fall 2013 needed developmental coursework. The greatest need in general and for APS students is in developmental mathematics.
- UA expects there will be less need for developmental courses for Alaska high school graduates as a result of the Alaska Standards.
- Success also depends upon better alignment of UA general education courses to the Alaska Standards. UA is currently in the process of examining its general education requirements.

Impact of the Alaska Standards

- The new standards will be fully implemented in 2015-16 so it is too early to know what the impact of the Alaska Standards will be.
- UA education programs encourage teacher candidates to learn and implement the new standards in their classroom.
- UA is optimistic that the new standards will improve student learning outcomes but full implementation is required before outcomes can be assessed.